

hasn't received feedback from the community but acknowledged the developmentally disabled wouldn't disrupt the block or create a dangerous situation if they are carefully supervised.

"We need to take care of our own," LaFemina added.

All the residents are from Staten Island and half are from the South Shore. Residents will have 24-hour supervision. During the day, they will be transported to a day program and will return to a fully staffed home in the evening.

Both are small homes in the middle of quiet blocks without many children and near major intersections. The Englewood Avenue site corners Arthur Kill Road and the Champlain Avenue home abuts Hylan Boulevard.

Englewood Avenue residents said ambulances often have difficulty finding the dead-end street because it appears as a continuous road on maps. The West Shore Expressway splits the street.

But neighbors say it is a safe, ethnically diverse block—within walking distance of a small grocery store and buses.

UCP said the towns were chosen because of their residential settings. "We wanted a small environment that is more conducive to having privacy," said Linda Laul, assistant executive director of UCP.

Ms. Laul said she has been to the site several times to communicate with neighbors, many of whom quizzed her about plans. "We make every effort to work with the community. We want them to accept what we are considering," she said.

Most of the residents need professional assistance at home and require care that can be difficult for their families to provide. Although there is a UCP program in the Bronx that offers weeklong breaks, parents sought a permanent, nearby home.

"This is something that I think she needs. Being with other people her own age and having access to activities. But I want her to be close enough that we can still be a part of her life," said Linda Aponte of West Brighton, whose 23-year-old daughter, Erin, will move into the Charleston home.

Describing the process of finding a home as long and frustrating, Mrs. Aponte said the family has been on a list for almost five years.

The process is part of the New York State Creating Alternatives in Residential Environments and Services (NYS CARES), a plan pushed by Gov. George Pataki to eliminate the waiting list in New York for residential placement and services.

While the facility is state-funded, families have a hand in selecting sites for their children.